



Tempe Public Art



Lauren Lee

Don't Wake the Dreamer, 2015

Painted mural

Location:

Hardy Yard building at Jaycee Park
Hardy Drive south of 5th Street

Artist Website:

www.LaurenLeeFineArt.com

Photo: Niba del Castillo

Description: *Don't Wake the Dreamer* is a 153' mural that was inspired by the young dreamers of Tempe: children playing nearby or going to the Boys' and Girls' Club, the thousands of students attending Arizona State University. The artist sought to activate spaces at the ground level to encourage participation with the painting and its use as a backdrop for photography. The mural in turn becomes a destination and then a recognized local landmark. The deep-blue starry sky features a recumbent, sleeping woman adorned in flowers and birds, alluding to both ecology and the power of Nature. It inspires the idea that we live in another animated and symbolic world of constellations, beauty, birds and flowers. The painting is also a nod to Tempe being a vibrant city with a large population of young people, and the necessity of dreaming big. ASU draws many dreamers who are discovering what they want to do, and who they want to be. Lee encourages that we must, "allow ourselves the time and energy to dream, to not give up on our dreams, and to find hidden meaning in our waking life."

Artist biography: Lauren Lee earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from Arizona State University in 2007, and went on to teach art for five years at The New School for the Arts and Academics in Tempe. Lee is now an award winning muralist and full-time freelance artist who has completed public art projects for both the public and private sectors. She has had several sold out gallery exhibitions in downtown Phoenix, including her "Sisters of the Moon" show at {9} the Gallery having sold out in less than 24 hours. Her murals can be found in other cities around the valley, including Phoenix, Mesa, and Chandler. Lee appreciates that murals can transform an urban landscape, and elicit awe and wonder from the public.

Funding: This project was funded through the Tempe Municipal Arts Fund and Graffiti Abatement with the support of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission.